

## Message Text

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61

ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INRE-00 NSAE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:HGHAGERTY:BDF

APPROVED BY METF:ALThERTON

DOD/ISA - COL. BOWEN

EUR/IB - MR. RABENOLD

PM/ISO - MR. STODDART

NEA/IAI - MR. CLUVERIUS

S/S - MR. PICKERING

S/S-O - MR. NEWLIN

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O R 190327Z OCT 73 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

INFO COMUSFORAZ

S E C R E T STATE 207380

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PO, XF

SUBJ: EL AL FLIGHTS VIA LAJES

REF: LISBON 3857

1. IN OUR JUDGMENT, APPROACHING GOP AT THIS TIME REGARDING EL AL USE OF LAJES AFB IN THE AZORES FOR REFUELING THEIR JETS CARRYING MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS NOT DESIRABLE. WE THINK IT IS A POOR IDEA EVEN FOR THE ISRAELIS TO BROACH THE SUBJECT TO THE PORTUGUESE NOW AND HOPE THEY CAN BE DIS-SUADED FROM DOING SO. IDEA OF DISGUIISING EL AL AIR-CRAFT WITH USAF MARKINGS IS NON-STARTER.

2. FOR TEL AVIV: YOU SHOULD TELL THE ISRAELIS WE HAVE LEARNED OF THEIR PLANS TO REQUEST PORTUGUESE PERMISSION  
SECRET

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FOR REFUELING EL AL CARGO FLIGHTS IN THE AZORES AND DOUBT THE WISDOM OF SUCH A PROPOSAL. WE BASE THIS ON OUR VIEW THAT THE PORTUGUESE HAVE BEEN STRETCHED ABOUT AS MUCH AS WE THINK THEY CAN AND IF THERE IS TO BE ANY FURTHER STRETCHING,

IT SHOULD BE TO ENABLE US TO SUSTAIN OUR AERIAL RESUPPLY  
EFFORT VIA LAJES. WHILE WE CAN CERTAINLY APPRECIATE  
ISRAELI DIFFICULTIES AND CONCERNS AND WISH WE COULD BE OF  
HELP, WE BELIEVE ANY ATTEMPT AT THIS POINT TO OBTAIN PER-  
MISSION TO USE LAJES FOR EL AL WOULD RUN THE RISK OF OVER-  
LOADING THE CIRCUIT, POLITICALLY AND PHYSICALLY. BECAUSE  
SUCH REQUEST COULD JEOPARDIZE OUR CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
LANDING RIGHTS, WE BELIEVE THIS PROPOSITION SHOULD NOT BE  
MADE TO THE PORTUGUESE AND HOPE THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WILL  
NOT DO SO. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED BEFOREHAND  
IF GOI DECIDES TO APPROACH PORTUGUESE.

3. FOR LISBON. YOU SHOULD TELL YOUR ISRAELI COLLEAGUE  
ABOUT OUR VIEWS AS EXPRESSED ABOVE AND OF OUR INTENTION  
TO STATE THEM IN TEL AVIV, EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT HE  
WILL CHECK WITH HIS HOME OFFICE ONCE MORE BEFORE CARRYING  
OUT HIS INSTRUCTIONS. KISSINGER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
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**Concepts:** AIR TRANSPORTATION, LANDING RIGHTS, ARMS SHIPMENTS, MILITARY BASES  
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**To:** LISBON NIACT  
**TEL AVIV INFO COMUSFORAZ**  
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